United Nations A/71/94

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 June 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Item 105 of the preliminary list*
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/174 and contains information on action taken to implement that resolution. In particular, the report provides a brief overview of follow-up to the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, as adopted at the high-level segment of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 70/174. The report also includes information on the preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on action taken by Member States to implement the Doha Declaration and on their proposals for ways and means of improving the efficiency of the process of preparing for and conducting the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.

* A/71/50.

V.16-03699 (E) 300616 010716

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. The Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015. The main theme of the Congress, which was attended by an unprecedented number of participants, was "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation".

2. In its resolution 70/174, entitled "Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", the General Assembly endorsed the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, as adopted at the high-level segment of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and as approved by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fourth session and subsequently by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2015/19.

3. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/174, the Secretariat has distributed the report of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/CONF.222/17), including the Doha Declaration, to Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, so as to ensure that its recommendations are disseminated as widely as possible.

II. Follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

4. In its resolution 70/174, the General Assembly invited Member States to take into consideration the Doha Declaration adopted by the Thirteenth Congress when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Assembly also invited Member States to identify areas covered in the Doha Declaration where further tools and training manuals based on international standards and best practices were needed, and to submit that information to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice so that it could take that information into account when considering potential areas of future activity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

5. At the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna from 23 to 27 May 2016, Member States informed the Commission about concrete action taken by their authorities to implement the Doha Declaration and the principles contained therein, and made proposals for the early planning and for the substantive preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (see E/2016/30-E/CN.15/2016/13).

6. In its resolution 70/174, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek proposals by Member States for ways and means of ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Doha Declaration, for consideration and action by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fifth session. Member States provided the corresponding proposals to the Commission at that session (see E/CN.15/2016/11).

7. In discharging its mandated function as the preparatory body of the congresses, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twenty-fifth session, discussed the need for planning in advance and allocating sufficient time for the early organizational and substantive preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be undertaken in close coordination with all parties involved, as well as the need to decide on the theme, the agenda items and the workshop topics at the Commission's next session. In exploring ways and means to improve the efficiency of the quinquennial crime congresses as pillars of the leadership role of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice at the international level, several speakers made reference to the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its meeting held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006 (see E/CN.15/2007/6), and noted with appreciation the methodological approach taken in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, which was based on the delineation of three distinct but logically interrelated phases of the congresses (preparation; conduct and structure; and outcome of the congresses and follow-up thereto). Many speakers also expressed support for continuing the practice of using a predictable and transparent process to finalize the negotiations on the outcome document in Vienna prior to the Congress, and for adopting it as part of the high-level segment at the opening of the Congress. The importance of maintaining the momentum of the Thirteenth Congress was emphasized. It was noted that the theme of the Fourteenth Congress could be the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, education, international cooperation, promoting a culture of lawfulness and public participation were noted as issues that could be given prominence at the Fourteenth Congress.

8. As a result of the deliberations at its twenty-fifth session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2016/30-E/CN.15/2016/13, chap. A, draft resolution). In that resolution, the Assembly would invite Member States to provide their suggestions in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress, and request the Secretary-General to include those suggestions in the report on the follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress and preparations for the Fourteenth Congress to be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session. The Assembly would also recommend that, building on the experience and the success of the Thirteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme and the agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress are interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics are streamlined and limited in number, and would encourage the holding of side

events that are focused on and complement the agenda items and workshops. The Assembly would further request the Commission to approve at its twenty-sixth session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress.

9. In the same resolution, the General Assembly would welcome the initiative of the Government of Qatar to work with UNODC in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Doha Declaration, and would also welcome the funding agreement signed on 27 November 2015 between the Government of Qatar and the Office. At the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, under the standing agenda item on the Congress, all speakers expressed gratitude to the Government of Qatar for successfully hosting the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and for facilitating appropriate follow-up to, and implementation of, the Doha Declaration. In this connection, several speakers noted the important role played by UNODC in supporting Member States in the fulfilment of their commitments in line with the Doha Declaration.

10. In its resolution 70/174, the General Assembly welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2020.